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February 21, 2020

LOB 2A 11:30AM

In **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 114

An Act Concerning Alternate Members of Municipal Planning Commissions

Chairman Cassano, Chairwoman McCarthy Vahey, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, I am here to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 114, *An Act Concerning Alternate Members of Municipal Planning Commissions*.

For the transcript, my name is Cathy Osten and I represent the 19th Senate District, which includes the towns of Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Marlborough, Montville, Norwich, and Sprague. I want to thank the leadership of this committee for considering this legislation for the second consecutive year.

This bill seeks to amend Section 8-19a of the General Statutes to permit a member of a local Zoning Board of Appeals to serve as an alternate member of a Planning Commission. I believe this is a simple correction that was brought to my attention by a constituent who was elected as a member of his town's Zoning Board of Appeals as well as an alternate on the Planning Commission. After learning that he could not serve on both, he resigned from the Planning Commission. This constituent points out that there is no prohibition in the General Statutes that prohibits a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals from serving as an alternate member of the Planning Commission. In fact, an individual in his town that serves as a full member on both panels. The constituent surmises that this discrepancy may have stemmed from the deletion of the prohibition for full members, but in the drafting, a previous legislature inadvertently overlooked that same prohibition for alternates.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill 114. I look forward to working with you on this bill's passage.